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# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1897.

A LECTURE BY REGNAULT.

## CONTENTS:

<i>A Lecture by Regnault:</i>	WOLCOTT GIBBS .....	409
<i>Professor Fontaine and Dr. Newberry on the Age of the Potomac Formation:</i>	LESTER F. WARD .....	411
<i>The American Morphological Society:</i>	G. H. PARKER.....	423
<i>Current Notes on Physiography:—</i>		
<i>Campbell on Drainage Modifications; Russell's Glaciers of North America; The Gohna Landslip:</i>	W. M. DAVIS .....	437
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology:—</i>		
<i>The Amerique Indians; 30th Report of the Peabody Institute; Pliocene Man in Britain:</i>	D. G. BRINTON.....	438
<i>Notes on Inorganic Chemistry:</i>	J. L. H.....	439
<i>Scientific Notes and News:—</i>		
<i>Revue de Mécanique; General.....</i>		440
<i>University and Educational News.....</i>		444
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>		
<i>Opportunities for Training in Physiology:</i>	H. P. BOWDITCH. <i>Note on Natrix Grohamii</i> B. & G.: FRANK C. BAKER, FRANK M. WOODRUFF. <i>Pseudo-Aurora Again:</i> H. A. HAZEN. <i>Greenland Glaciers:</i> EDWARD H. WILLIAMS, JR.....	446
<i>Scientific Literature:—</i>		
<i>Letourneau on l'Evolution de l'Esclavage:</i>	D. G. BRINTON. <i>The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota:</i> C. E. BEECHER. <i>Shaw on Municipal Government in Continental Europe:</i> EDWIN O. JORDAN .....	448
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>		
<i>Torrey Botanical Club:</i>	EDWARD S. BURGESS.	
<i>The New York Academy of Sciences:</i>	W. HALLOCK. <i>The Academy of Science of St. Louis:</i> WM. TRELEASE.....	451

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WHEN a student at the Collège de France in 1847 I heard a lecture by Victor Regnault, of a part of which I send a copy. So far as I know, it was never printed. The lithographed copies were paid for by the students themselves. I think that the figures of prisms given (see plate) will have something more than a purely historical interest even now.

WOLCOTT GIBBS.

NEWPORT, January 27, 1897.

Quelques physiciens ont construits des appareils au moyen desquels on peut observer les raies du spectre sans qu'il soit nécessaire de se placer dans une chambre obscure.

A l'une des extrémités d'un tuyau, Mr. Dujardin place un diaphragme rectiligne; à l'autre extrémité, un certain nombre de prismes fixés dans la position du minimum de déviation, en les disposant ainsi, il a pour but de diminuer autant que cela est possible, l'aberration de sphéricité qui résulterait de ce que les rayons incidents ne sont pas parallèles.

On obtient ainsi un spectre très dévié, mais cette disposition présente plusieurs inconvénients; la déviation minimum n'a lieu que pour les rayons qui marchent dans l'axe du tuyau; de plus, quoi que l'on ait diminué le plus possible l'épaisseur des prismes les pertes de lumière par réflexion